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Some of our other names of Indian origin are also spelled in a great variety of ways.

BARGE. — The following letter appeared in the "Boston Herald," October 29, 1906 : —

"Barge — A Boston Word. — *To the Editor of the Herald* : Two or three requests have been made for the origin of the common word 'barge.' I feel confident I can give the correct explanation. I believe it is a Boston word.

"When I was a boy, 1850 on, or perhaps a little before, there appeared in Boston a gay wonder. The old stagers, like Dr. Green and Edward Everett Hale, will recall it, and the elder 'Bostonians.' It was called 'Cleopatra's Barge,' a long boat-like vehicle, I think on wheels in the summer and runners in the winter, for excursions and for sleighrides. It was painted to suit the name, and when full of gay youth, it presented a brilliant appearance. My impression is that it was owned by the Omnibus Company.

"I do not suppose there was any one — certainly not many — in Boston at that time who did not know of 'the Barge' — 'Cleopatra's Barge.'

"My impression is that the summer hotels, the seaside, and the country hotels, caught up the name, and gave it at first to their vehicles which had rows of side seats, and in other ways emulated the brilliant original. From those 'barges,' I suppose the name came to be applied to anything in the shape of an excursion or picnic wagon, or any old beach wagon.

"Will C. Wood.

"6 PINCKNEY STREET, BOSTON, Oct. 24, 1906."